

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Application of
Dayton V. Taylor

Serial No.

Filed: Herewith

For: SYSTEM FOR PRODUCING TIME-
INDEPENDENT VIRTUAL CAMERA
MOVEMENT IN MOTION PICTURES
AND OTHER MEDIA

Examiner N. Diep
Group Art Unit 2713

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminary to examination of the above-cited application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following paragraph:

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of the applicant's co-pending U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/698,428, entitled "System For Producing Time-Independent Virtual Camera Movement In Motion Pictures And Other Media," filed on October 27, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,331,871, issued on December 18, 2001, which was a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 08/909,233, filed on August 11, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,154,251, issued on November 28, 2000, which was a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 08/362,653, filed on December 21, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,659,323, issued on August 19, 1997.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 - 20 without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

21. A system for producing virtual camera motion in a motion picture medium comprising:

- a strip of photographic film;
- a first magazine for holding the photographic film prior to exposure;
- a second magazine for holding the photographic film after exposure;
- a plurality of cameras deployed in a flexible array along a preselected path with each camera having a focal plane and a lens assembly for focusing an image of a common scene onto the focal plane;

- a triggering mechanism triggering each camera to record a still image of the scene by exposing a portion of the film along the focal plane;

- a film-feeding mechanism feeding the strip of film from the first magazine through each camera so that a portion of the film is disposed at the focal plane of each camera, and also feeding the strip of film from each camera into the second magazine; and

- a transfer mechanism to transfer the images from the film in a preselected order along the path onto a sequence of frames in the motion picture medium, thereby creating the illusion that a single motion picture camera has moved along the path.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein the transfer mechanism transfers the images into a digital data format.

23. The system of claim 21 wherein the triggering mechanism triggers each camera to simultaneously record a still image of the scene.

24. A system for producing virtual camera motion in a motion picture medium comprising:

a plurality of cameras deployed in a flexible array along a preselected path with each camera focused on a common scene;

a triggering mechanism triggering each of the cameras to record a still image of the scene; and

a transfer mechanism transferring the still images from the cameras into a time-sequence of frames in a digital data format and outputting the time-sequence of frames in a motion picture medium, thereby creating the illusion that a single motion picture camera has moved along the path.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein the camera comprises a video camera.

26. The system of claim 24 wherein the motion picture medium comprises video storage means.

27. The system of claim 24 wherein the motion picture medium comprises motion picture film.

28. The system of claim 24 wherein the triggering mechanism triggers each of the cameras to simultaneously record a still image.

REMARKS

Independent claim 21 is generally based to claim 1 in U.S. Patent No. 5,659,323, but has been amended to cover a flexible array of cameras. This limitation is supported by page 14, line 15; page 15, line 6; page 17, line 13; and page 21, line 8 of the specification. New claims 24 - 27 are generally based on claims 1 - 4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,251, but have also been amended to require a flexible array of cameras.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DORR, CARSON, SLOAN & BIRNEY, P.C.

By Thomas S. Birney

Thomas S. Birney #30,025

3010 East 6th Avenue

Denver, Colorado 80206

(303) 333-3010

Attorneys for Applicant